

1994 Marks 147 Years of Hobart History

1993 Annual Report of the Society

Each year, when we report on the activities of the Society and the Museum, we say it was a busy year. The year just ended was no exception.

Early in the year, the Board did some goal-setting, developing a "wish list" of things they would like to see happen. The result was a list of 52 items, grouped under building, housekeeping, exhibits, library, policy and displays, which the Board reviewed and prioritized. By the end of 1993, thirteen of the projects had been completed or were underway. While we still have a long wish list, we also have some notable accomplishments for the year.

Major work on the building continued, with replacement of the copper gutters on the south side of the building in the spring and tuckpointing of the entrance in the fall. The latter project resulted in a mortar dust storm that seeped into every nook and cranny and made cleaning a "drop everything else" project. Board members and docents pitched in, and Bob Hutchens, who has volunteered as chief putterer, put in many hours getting the Museum back in shape. We are continuing work in the basement, clearing out the corners and renovating where we can.

Programs and exhibits were another a priority. Two traveling exhibits were borrowed from the Indiana State Library: "Strike Up The Band," on the history of bands in Indiana, and "Gene Stratton Porter: Novelist and Naturalist." Our own Chicago world's fairs exhibit was very popular, both with friends of Hobart history who loaned items for display and with visitors. Special hours during the July 4th weekend and at Christmas and New Year's also drew extra visitors. Our display at the Chamber of Commerce's pig roast in August featured Scouting. In November, a capacity audience enjoyed the dinner at which former fire chief Dick Harrigan spoke on the history of the Hobart Fire Department.

We also participated in some statewide programs: the Indiana Historical Society's Business Heritage project which registered the Gazette as a 100 year old business and the Secretary of State's Half Century award program, which recognized Isakson Motors, the Gazette, and Hobart Lumber as 50. The Society is also participating in the Lake County Historic Preservation Coalition, which is working for an inventory of historic sites and structures in Lake County.

Publishing activity included a revised edition of *Along the Route*, the history of the Hobart Post Office, and a *Hobart History Advocate* on the Hobart High School Band. The Growing Up in Hobart project will result in a book, now in preparation for publication in 1994.

The library is also undergoing improvement. Oyjdal Isakson, Tish Keilman, and I have been sorting material, copying clippings to more permanent paper, and editing the subjects for better access. We have finished the administrative and genealogy files and are two-thirds of the way through the subject file.

Elections were held in November, and we welcome Rita McBride to the Board as a director. The other officers, all continuing, are Elin Christianson, president; Helen Hopp, vice president; Letitia Keilman, secretary; Oyjdal Isakson, treasurer, and directors Bruce Webber, Eleanor Thurow, Virginia Curtis, and Marian Colburn. Dorothy Ballantyne continues as Museum Director.

It has been quite a year, and we're looking forward to more in 1994!

Elin Christianson, President

1993 Report of the Museum Director

Attendance at the museum continues steady with visitors from Canada, London, England, and Germany. States represented among our visitors were Ohio, Wisconsin, Virginia, Michigan, Florida,

1992 Report of the Museum Director (continued)

Arizona, California, Illinois, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Colorado and Iowa. The exhibits drawing the most attention were the band display from the state, our exhibit of the Chicago world's fair memorabilia, and the Christmas trees. Also popular was the state story of Gene Stratton Porter. Classes from Foreman and the Middle School toured the museum, and programs were taken to Mundell elementary school. Tours were also arranged for Lake County groups and Girl Scouts. We again would like to thank those who loaned material for the summer world's fair exhibit: Leona Ewigleben, Betty Tobey, Harold Stevens, Alan Jentzen, Robert Soyster, and Oyjdal Isakson.

The library has been busy all year, assisting researchers who visit the museum as well as answering mail inquiries.

Our deepest appreciation to our docents and helpers. Without them it would be difficult, if not impossible to keep the doors open: Marian Colburn, Eleanor Thurow, Helen Hopp, Sis Reinerth, Letitia Keilman, Libby Rearick, Margaret DeLeurere, Sadie Aldrin, Emma Christianson, Rita McBride, Elinor Carlson, Bruce Webber, and Justin Hammack. Very special thanks to Bob Hutchens, who has taken us on and is making the Museum look a lot better.

Dorothy Ballantyne, Museum Director

Necrology

We lost a number of good friends of Hobart history in 1993 and here record their names in memoriam. Special note should be made of Fred Scriba, a loyal friend, whose friends and families made donations to the Society in his memory. The funds will be used to support the publication of *Growing Up in Hobart*. We also regretfully note the passing of Ted Ferkinhoff, in January 1994. Ted not only had a keen interest in history (he knew more about the U.S. Presidency than we ever will) but, as district manager of NIPSCO and a community leader, made a good deal of Hobart history himself. He donated to the Society valuable records of the Hobart Light & Water Company and the early history of NIPSCO.

Also gone from our ranks in 1993: Paul Clayton, Vivian Duffy, Gladys Ehrhardt, Helen Engstrom, Wayne Grabill, Wilbur Guyton, James Hawke, David Mackey, Marjorie Marler, Irene Niksch, Orval Ray Partlow, Mary Revelli, Elmer Schmelter, Mary June Schmelter, Fred Scriba, Anthony Seed, Margaret Wanamaker Shults, Alfred Tarnow and Eugene Wise. They will be missed.

Hobart History Donations in 1993

Carl Atseff. antique cash register.	Betty Johnson. old maps and postcards.
Dorothy Ballantyne. Indiana books.	Eleanore Leonard. Pennsy RR & EJ&E pictures.
John Bracken. photographs.	Robert Maybaum. various memorabilia.
Stan and Elin Christianson. Indiana flag, Brickie cushion, pen & pencil collection.	Danny McDonald. sink brace.
Emma Christianson, mirrors, adding machine.	Dorothy Mellon. old picture.
Marian Colburn. various memorabilia.	Lilian Newcomb. 1902 HHS annual.
Virginia Curtis. various memorabilia.	Henrietta Newmann. Girl Scout memorabilia.
E & E Jewelers, engraving.	Martha Nichols. 1953 HHS reunion book.
Leona Ewigleben. various memorabilia.	Grace Petersen. HHS annuals.
Helen Flaherty. 1894 Gazette, P.J. Kelly blotter	Claire Ramer. 1927 picture of Amlong's Restaurant.
Ruth Halladay. HHS annual.	Eleanor Ramsay. 1893 Columbian Exposition memorabilia.
Tom Hallett. 1880 assessor's book.	Dennis Riley. "Lingo of No Man's Land."
Norma Harms. Harms family history.	Marvin Rowley. office supplies.
Marlene Highsmith. spinning wheel part.	Dorothy Ruark. various memorabilia.
Helen Hopp. HHS reunion books, various memorabilia.	Janis Swynenberg. HHS annuals.
Peter Huminski. blacksmith shears.	Betty Witwer. 1922 friendship quilt.
Alan Jentzen. 1893 Columbian Exposition lithograph.	Donald Wood. photograph.

1993 Donors**In Memoriam**

Fred J. Scriba

Benefactors (Over \$100)

Stan and Elin Christianson

Epsilon Zeta Chapter, Kappa Kappa Kappa

Harlan and Betty Stratton

Century Club (\$100)

Margaret Beckner

Elsie Bradley

Paula Brown

Virginia Curtis

General Telephone

HFS Bank

Hobart Lumber Company

Hobart Middle School Student Council

William H. and Mary Glynn

Henrietta Leistikow

Robert Maybaum

Dr. W.A. Nelson

Rees Funeral Home

Jarvis and Nancy Roper

Margaret Werstler

Aileen Williams

Supporting Members (\$50-\$75)

Myrtle Anderson

Dorothy Ballantyne

Bank One

Richard Frey

Hobart Lions Club

Bethel Mattingly

James A. McClellan

Leonard L. Ols

Theta Rho Associate Chapter, Phi Beta Psi

Theta Rho Chapter, Phi Beta Psi

Isabelle Vargo

Sustaining Members (\$25)

Easterling M. Allen

Dr. Donna Glad Blythe

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Donna Boyd Burnham

Elinor Carlson

Arlene Cooper

Depot Decor Antiques

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Naomi Fleeger

George Fraser

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Stanley Johnson

Marjorie Keene

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Harry Kneifel

Velma Lonner

Coral McAfee

Rita McBride

James Marler

William D. Murphy

Olive Olsen

Dr. John T. Parker

Evelyn Reinert

Mary L. Scheid

Fred J. Scriba

Charles and Lorraine Smith

Smith Insurance

Richard Seeley

Robert and Shirley Thompson

Paul and Ruth Throne

Answer to Our Memory Tickler

In the last issue of the Hobart History News, we asked if anyone could recall the year when the Pederson building at Second and Main was demolished. The year was 1972. The Pederson building and the two Gordon houses on Second and Second and Center were razed for the Edward's parking lot. The Ballantyne house at Fourth and Center also disappeared that summer, replaced by a parking lot for the Junior High School (now the Hobart Middle School).

And A Few Last Words

Please accept our apologies if your name is spelled incorrectly or missing from the list above. We try to be accurate, but...the pesky errors do creep in...and drop out! The Society's annual financial report is ready and available to anyone who requests it. Just drop us a line.

Hobart Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Hobart, IN 46342-0024

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Hobart Historical Society Museum

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Need a special gift? We have some that say "Hobart"

TO: Mrs. Walter Isakson, Treasurer
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P.O. Box 24
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Here is my annual contribution of \$_____ to help preserve the past, present and future of
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Sustaining Member* . . . \$ 25.00
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